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RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, *March 19, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the official sanitary report for the city of Rio de Janeiro, for the week ended March 16. There were 326 deaths from all causes, a decrease of 49 from the preceding week. There were 5 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 2; 38 from yellow fever, the same as before; 4 from smallpox, an increase of 1; 4 from typhoid fever, an increase of 1; 1 from beriberi, the same as before; 1 from whooping cough, the same as before; none from plague, the same as before, and 51 from tuberculosis, an increase of 6.

I have the honor to report that, by Portaria of the 17th instant, the city was declared free of pest, and I have to-day cabled you to that effect. I have also sent you by to-day's mail a note concerning the advisability of sending a yellow-fever commission here, a matter referred to me by the consul-general.

Respectfully,

EDWARD W. AMES,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *March 6, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended March 1, 1902. Ten vessels were inspected during the week, 454 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 564 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam.

There was 1 rejection among the steerage passengers because of fever. The sanitary returns show that 1 case of plague terminated fatally, 1 case of enteric fever, 2 cases of smallpox, and 2 deaths occurred in the colony. One case of smallpox was imported into the colony by the P. and O. steamship *Oriental* from the south.

Reports came from Canton during the week that cholera was prevalent in that city and that 2 Europeans had died of the disease. Reliable information regarding the health or sanitary conditions of Chinese cities is very hard to obtain, but a letter from the British consul at Canton confirmed the report that certain deaths had been due to "fruit cholera," which is at present prevailing there.

A letter was addressed to the honorable Mr. R. M. McWade, United States consul at Canton, requesting information regarding the conditions, and in reply he stated that Asiatic cholera is prevalent in certain parts of the city; that for the past ten days upward of 30 cases daily have occurred in the district known as "the pig market," but that the disease seems to be abating. He also mentions the death of a senior officer of the Chinese customs, an American citizen, which occurred March 5 at his residence in Honan. This is the third reported case among the foreign population. The long-continued drought and foul water supply resulting are no doubt the predisposing cause of the outbreak.

A case was discovered in the mortuary in this city March 4—Chinese, who had lived in this city for at least ten days, and his associates stated that he had been ill with diarrhea for one week. Under ordinary conditions there would be little danger of an epidemic of cholera in this

city, but because of the long-continued dry season there has been a marked shortage in the water supply, and people will soon have to obtain a supply from sources other than the city waterworks, which undoubtedly increases the danger.

The mortality returns of the colony for the month of January, 1902, show that there were 369 deaths during the month, a percentage mortality of 14.9 per 1,000 per annum, excluding the army and navy. The percentage mortality among the British and foreign population was 20 per 1,000, and among the Chinese population 14.7 per 1,000 per annum.

Of the total deaths reported, 40 were due to diarrhea, 7 to dysentery, 1 to bubonic plague, 30 to malaria, 17 to beriberi, 12 to heart lesions, 26 to bronchitis, 42 to pneumonia, 55 to phthisis pulmonalis, and 10 to diseases of the digestive system. During the first two months of last year 20 deaths were due to bubonic plague, while only 2 occurred during January and February of this year. In anticipation of the annual plague epidemic, extensive disinfecting procedures have been carried on throughout the city for several weeks with the view of lessening the severity of the epidemic, which is almost sure to develop with the advent of the warm, rainy season.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Plague conditions at Yeung Kong and Shuitung—Canton free.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., April 5, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a dispatch received from the consul of the United States at Canton, China, in regard to the plague at Yeung Kong.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

CANTON, CHINA, *February 19, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the following copy of a communication received to-day from Dr. Dobson, American Presbyterian Mission, concerning plague conditions at Yeung Kong and Shuitung in Kwangtung:

“YEUNG KONG, P. O.,
Kwangtung, China, February 10, 1902.

“SIR: In response to your letter of January 25, regarding the existence of plague in this vicinity, I have the honor to submit the following:

“The district of Yeung Kong is situated about 150 miles west of Hongkong, running along the seacoast for about 60 to 80 miles and stretching inland about 40 to 50 miles. Yeung Kong is the largest town, having about 40,000 inhabitants. The city is walled. The streets are roughly paved with stone and the lack of sanitary precautions is self-evident as in all other towns and villages in this section.

“Shuitung is a town on the coast at the extreme southwest of this district. This place has quite a maritime trade, mostly local. This is a noted plague spot, the disease being practically endemic, over 300 deaths having occurred in the past few weeks.

“At the present time plague is prevalent and on the increase in both of these towns. I can not speak as to the country villages, except to say that a majority of the smaller ones seem to be free from the disease. Here in Yeung Kong City the plague has made its appearance in the city prison, there having been 60 or more deaths in the past month. The prison is a pesthouse of filth, and the gutters on the adjacent streets are masses of foul, black offal.